

www.epa.gov/OWOW/ heritage/rivers.html

American Heritage Rivers Initiative was created to advance the goals identified by river communities. The Initiative has three objectives: natural resource and environmental protection, economic revitalization, and historic and cultural preservation. No new regulatory authority is created as a result of the Initiative. Likewise, no direct federal funding is available to the Initiative. Existing federal authorities and programs are used to assist the community partners in implementation of their goals.

► Connecticut River Navigator Contact

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Fact Sheet/June 2002

Connecticut River



What Makes the Connecticut River Watershed Special?

- ►It is New England's largest watershed 11,000 square-miles in 4 states with 38 major tributaries.
- ►It is also New England's longest river 410 miles.
- ► The Connecticut River drops 2,400 feet from its source before flowing into Long Island Sound.
- ► The lower 60 miles of the river are tidal, with the boundary between salt and freshwater about 17 miles from its mouth under normal conditions.
- ► The Connecticut River flow accounts for 70 percent of the freshwater inflow to Long Island Sound, delivering a daily average flow of nearly 16,000 cubic feet per second.
- ► The watershed was nationally designated as one of fourteen American Heritage Rivers.
- ► The entire watershed has been designated as the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, the only refuge encompassing and entire ecosystem.
- ► The river's tidal wetlands were designated "wetlands of international importance especially for wildlife", one of 15 wetlands recognized in the United States.

What are the Long Term Goals?

- ► Support community based efforts to restore and protect the environmental, economic, cultural, and historic resources of the Connecticut River Watershed.
- ▶Bring people back to the river by providing greater ricver access and encouraging investment in carefully planned river-front economic development.

Progress/Goals for the Future

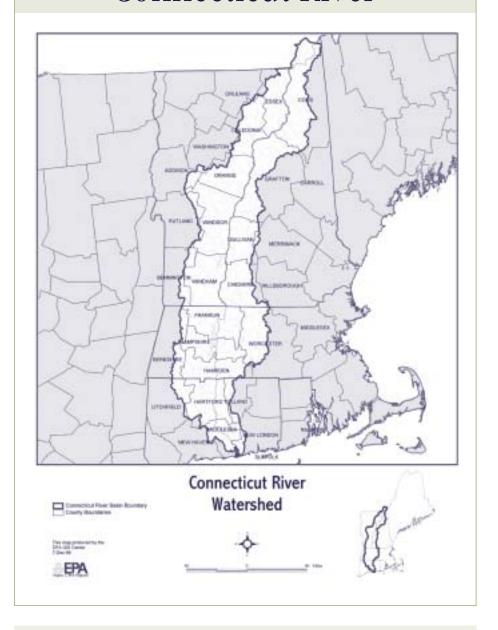
What Partnership Progress has Been Made?

- ▶EPA and four other federal and state agencies removed the McGoldrick dam from the Ashuelot River in NH to restore fisheries, water quality, create new recreation opportunities, and protect public safety.
- ►EPA and NOAA gave \$179,000 to CRWC to remove obsolete dams aand construct fish passage facilities.
- ► CRJC provided \$131,000 towards 38 projects in their CT River Corridor Management Plan.
- ►MA Environmental Trust gave \$50,000 for five projects in 2001.
- ►EPA awarded \$7,000 to Pioneer Valley Planning Commission for combined sewer overflow education in Greater Springfield, MA.
- ►EPA provided \$95,000 to both CRWC and CRJC for erosion projects, including one in Charlestown, NH and for erosion site prioritization work on the river.

What EPA Actions are Planned for 2002?

- ► More riverbank stabilization projects to improve water quality, preserve farm land, and enhance riparian buffers.
- ►Remove more obsolete dams to restore fisheries, improve water quality, create new recreation opportunities, and eliminate public safety hazards.
- ▶ Reduce bacterial loading to the Connecticut River.
- ► Reduce the Connecticut River nitrogen load delivered to Long Island Sound.

Connecticut River



"Our vision for the Connecticut River's future is for a river with clear running water, migrating salmon and shad, recreational users of all types enjoying the River's beauty, a riverfront of protected open lands, wildlife areas, paths and river access facilities, and appropriate riverfront development in downtown areas."

-Whitty Sanford, CT River Watershed Council



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Who are the Partners?

Capitol Region Council of Governments • Pioneer Valley Planning Commission • Connecticut River Conservation District Coalition • Riverfront Recapture, Inc. • Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency • Science Center of Connecticut • Connecticut River Watershed Council, Inc. • East Windsor AHRI Committee, Town of East Windsor CT • Midstate Regional Planning Agency • Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce • New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission • Franklin Regional Council of Government • Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission • Southwest Region Planning Commission • Windham Regional Commission • Brattleboro Selectboard • Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission • Connecticut River Joint Commissions, Inc. • Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission • Northeast Vermont Development Association • US Fish and Wildlife • US Environmental Protection Agency • US Army Corps of Engineers • Federal Highway Administration • Housing and Urban Development • Economic Development Agency, Dept. of Commerce • US Geological Survey • Federal Emergency Management Agency • National Marine Fisheries Service • National Park Service • Univ. of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension • Univ. of Connecticut Cooperative Extension • USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service • USDA Forest Service • USDA - Rural Development for states of CT, MA, RI, NH and VT • USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for the states of CT, MA, NH, VT • USDA Farm Service Agency for the states of CT, MA, NH and VT • Governors of CT, MA, NH and VT



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Note: EPA-New England offers businesses and municipalities information and assistance to improve compliance with environmental laws and be better stewards of their local environment. Please call to learn how EPA can help.